

Message Text

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TAGS: EPAP, EIND, ECON, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA CHEWS OUT THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY

SUMMARY: PRAVDA HAS CRITICIZED THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY FOR NOT PRODUCING ENOUGH OF THE RIGHT KINDS OF PRODUCTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. THE EDITORIAL CALLS FOR A BETTER USE OF RESERVES, AS WELL AS NEW CAPACITY, IN ORDER TO INCREASE PRODUCTION, BUT THE ONLY EXAMPLE GIVEN IS THE USE OF THE SHCHEKIN METHOD TO REDUCE THE WORK FORCE (AND THUS - BY ONE MEASURE - RAISE LABOR PRODUCTIVITY). GIVEN THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY, SUCH PRODUCTIVITY GAINS SEEM QUITE POSSIBLE THOUGH SIMULTANEOUS INCREASES IN OUTPUT ARE MORE OF A QUESTION. ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 2.3 PERCENT GROWTH GOAL IN 1978 WOULD ONLY KEEP THE INDUSTRY ON TRACK FOR THE LOW END OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN TARGET RANGE. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. UNDER THE TITLE "PAPER - THE "BREAD" OF CULTURE," PRAVDA'S

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JANUARY 10 EDITORIAL CHEWS OUT THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY FOR NOT PRODUCING ENOUGH OF THE RIGHT TYPES TO SATISFY THE PRESS, AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING AND THE PACKAGING INDUSTRY. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM IS HINTED AT BY THE EDITORIAL'S NOTING THAT THE SUPREME SOVIET SESSION SAID DELAYS IN THE SUPPLY OF VISCOSE CELLULOSE (VISKOZNAYA TSELLYULOZA) BY THE BRATSK PULP AND PAPER COMBINE AFFECTED A NUMBER OF OTHER SECORS. THE PRIN-

CIPAL FAULT, SAYS THE EDITORIAL, LIES IN WEAK ORGANIZATION OF PRODUCTION, A LOW LEVEL OF ENGINEERING SERVICES, AND FREQUENT VIOLATIONS OF TECHNICAL PROCEDURES. LATER ON, THE EDITORIAL ALSO BLAMES THE STATE COMMITTEE OF MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPLY (GOSSNAB) AND THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS FOR DELAYS AND BREAK-DOWNS IN SUPPLY THAT CUT DOWN PRODUCTION AND THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND PETROLEUM MACHINE BUILDING FOR SLOWNESS IN RAISING THE QUALITY OF EQUIPMENT THAT RETARDS THE ACTIVATION OF NEW CAPACITY.

2. THE EDITORIAL REITERATES THAT THE 1978 ECONOMIC PLAN CALLS FOR A 3.9 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PRODUCTION OF PULP AND 2.3 PERCENT IN PAPER AND CARDBOARD. IT ALSO AGAIN POINTS OUT THAT GROWTH MUST COME NOT ONLY FROM NEW CAPACITY BUT ALSO FROM FULLER UTILIZATION OF EQUIPMENT AT EXISTING PLANTS. THE KONDO-POZHISK, SYAS'K, ARKHANGEL'SK AND KOTLASSK COMBINES AND THE BELBUMPROM AND LITBUMPROM ASSOCIATIONS WERE SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE FOR THEIR 1977 PERFORMANCE IN DECREASING THE TIME REQUIRED TO INSTALL NEW CAPACITY, RAISING THE UTILIZATION RATE OF MACHINERY, AND THE CREATIVE USE OF "RESERVES." THE ONLY "CREATIVE USE OF RESERVES" MENTIONED WAS USED BY KOTLASK OF THE SHCHEKIN METHOD TO FREE UP MORE THAN 1,000 MEN FOR TRANSFER TO OTHER SECTIONS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT: SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE SHCHEKIN METHOD MARKS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF FAVORABLE REFERENCES SINCE LAST SUMMER TO THIS JOB-EXPANSION MEANS OF REDUCING THE WORK FORCE. DESPITE THE EARLIER DIFFICULTIES THAT LED TO ITS VIRTUAL ABANDONMENT, THE SHCHEKIN METHOD APPEARS TO BE ON THE RISE AGAIN.

4. IF ACHIEVED, A GROWTH RATE OF 2.3 PERCENT IN 1978 WOULD ONLY KEEP PAPER PRODUCTION ON TRACK TOWARD ABOUT 15 PERCENT GROWTH IN THE TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (1976-80), WHICH IS THE LOW END OF THE 15-25 PERCENT RANGE PRESENTED IN THE "DRAFT GUIDELINES." THUS, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE LONG-TROUBLED PULP AND PAPER SECTOR WILL CONTINUE TO BE A LAGGARD INDUSTRY, SLOW TO MODERNIZE, OFTEN LOW IN QUALITY, AND DEFICIENT IN VOLUME OF OUTPUT OF SPECIFIC ITEMS EVEN WHEN THE OVERALL GOAL IS REACHED. MATLOCK

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